

Outdoor Learning in a Single-Class Primary School

Wednesday 4 August 2021 - Parallel Session 3 - 11.30am to 12.30pm (GMT+1)

SINCLAIR - Building Enduring Partnerships

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Papa Westray Community School sits at the heart of a small island community in Orkney, Scotland. With a school roll of less than five pupils, in a single multi-grade (composite) class setting, strong partnerships with a wide variety of partners are critical to the school's on-going ability to provide equitable opportunities for pupils. In this presentation, information will be presented in relation to the development of outdoor learning opportunities at the school. We aspire for outdoor learning to become part of our daily practice at Papay School in order to achieve a range of objectives: to promote Health and Wellbeing, to support core curriculum learning, and for the outdoors itself to be our focus – to learn about our environment, our climate, our community, our local history and our wider world. In the last year, a range of partners have supported us to achieve these objectives. Partners range from local community projects (Papa Westray Market Garden), to national partners who have provided both funding (Community Climate Asset Fund) and learning direction (John Muir Trust). This combination has allowed children to learn about climate challenges, to contribute to local solutions, to develop partnerships, and to work increasingly independently outdoors. This presentation will offer examples of learning, with a focus on effective practice when working with a multi-grade group of children.